GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1741
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2016
Lead used in Enamel Paints
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exposure of children to lead, a highly toxic heavy metal used in enamel paints can affect their behavioural and cognitive development and a research by a section of Environmental Paediatrics at New York University School of Medicine has found that exposure to lead costs India US$ 236 billion annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to create awareness about leadbased paints available in the market and impact of lead paints on health and environment?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): According to research done by Environmental Pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine, exposure to lead has a permanent negative impact on children"s developing brains. One impact is a reduction in intelligence quotient (IQ), which can be correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential. The results of the research are presented for Africa, Asia and Latin America/Caribbean following World Health Organisation geographic classifications (United Nations, 2012). Lead exposure represents a major contributor to children's intellectual disability in many Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), which in turn translates into significant earning losses over a lifetime. Childhood lead exposure in India, when translated into economic losses is estimated to be US$236.1 billion.
Source: Website of New York University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics (Environmental Pediatrics).

(c): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the rules titled "Regulation on Lead contents in Household and Decorative Paints Rules, 2016" to regulate the manufacture, trade, use, import and export of lead contents in household and decorative paints vide GSR 1030 (E) dated 1st November, 2016 .